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JFK Assassination System
Identification Form

Date: 5/1/2015

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DATE: 11-14-2017
STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: May 3, 1955
Havana, Cuba

FROM : Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba (64-153)

G.I.I.F. - Cuba

SUBJECT: AMERICAN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

G.I.F.

1ST slot machines

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OTHERWISE

Reference Havana letter March 21, 1955, which, among other things, pointed out that Cuban Law Decree No. 2019 dated 1-27-55 authorized gambling in clubs and cabarets which were certified as suitable for such purposes by the Cuban Institute of Tourism. (S)(u)

On 4-28-55 CI HAV-11 advised that he had been informed that a concession to bring slot machines into Cuba and set them up had been granted by Minister of the Interior, SANTIAGO REY, to MARTIN FOX, one of the owners of the Tropicana Night Club in Havana. He said this information had been given to him by GEORGE LEVINE, FBI No. 382915, who is most upset because he claims the slot machine concession had been promised to him. (S)(u)

Source said that he had further been informed that DINO CELLINI, FBI No. 2198122, American floor man at the Tropicana gambling casino, had made a trip to Las Vegas, Nevada, and had made the necessary arrangements for the shipping of the slot machines to Cuba. (S)(u)

On 4-29-55, Mr. EDMUND CHESTER, confidant and confidential adviser to President FULGENCIO BATISTA of Cuba and a good contact of the Havana office, was in the office on another matter. He was questioned as to whether the above mentioned Law Decree authorized the use of slot machines in Cuba. Mr. CHESTER said that he, himself, had been interested in the matter and had made inquiry and was told that the Law Decree apparently authorized all types of gambling devices, including slot machines. (S)(u)

Mr. CHESTER further advised that he had been informed that considerable pressure had been put on the Cuban Institute of Tourism to obtain the passage of the above Law Decree, with the thought that Havana might be converted into another Las Vegas. He said that a great deal of this pressure was brought by MEYER LANSKY, FBI No. 791783, notorious American hoodlum, some of whose activities were reported in reference Havana letter (S)(u)

Extra copies of this letter are attached for forwarding by the Bureau to the Miami and Salt Lake City offices. It will be appreciated if the latter office receives any information through informants concerning the shipment of slot machines from Las Vegas to Cuba, that the information be furnished to the Bureau for forwarding to this office. (S)(u)

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